

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-15, 17, 18, and 20-22 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 6, 12, 15 and 17 are amended and claims 8 and 19 are cancelled. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 12 can be found, for example, in the original claims 8 and 19. No new matter is added.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8 and 19.

Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 12, 15 and 17-19 read on the elected Species. Claims 1 and 12 remain generic to non-elected claims 2, 3, 9-11, 13, 14 and 20-22. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder of the withdrawn claims upon allowance of the generic independent claims.

Applicant is filing an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) with this Amendment. It is respectfully requested that the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned to the Applicant showing consideration of the references by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 4 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner asserts that it is unclear whether references to "the cut sheet" in line 11 of claim 1 refer to "the cut sheet" in line 6 or "a subsequent cut sheet" in line 9. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. "The cut sheet" refers back to the first instance found in line 6.

We respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP-6-271145 (hereinafter "Saito"); claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP-9-58903 (hereinafter "Tanaka"); claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Azumi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,964,460); claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Yen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,485,011); claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Iwanade (U.S. Patent No. 5,194,970) in view of Azumi et al.; and claims 4, 6, 7, 15, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Iwanade in view of Saito.

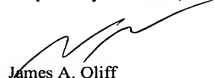
Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the allowable features of claims 8 and 19 respectively. The rejections are therefore moot.

We respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John A. Radi
Registration No. 59,345

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:JAR/tbm

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Information Disclosure Statement
Appendix

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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